

Maine EMS Examination Committee Meeting

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Maine EMS Conference Room, Augusta

Minutes

Present: Jacky Vaniotis – Chair, Trisha Coleman, Joanne LeBrun, Darrell Gilman

Absent: Rick Doughty, Travis Norsworthy, Gary Utgard, Kelly Roderick, Bob Hawkes

Staff: Drexell White

1. Call To Order - The meeting was called to order at 9:38 a.m.

A. Assign Timekeeper – Jacky Vaniotis

B. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda – None

Drexell White reported that Travis Norsworthy, Bob Hawkes, Gary Utgard and Kelly Roderick notified him that they would be unable to attend the meeting.

2. Minutes – January 18, 2005, meeting minutes - review for acceptance

The minutes of the January 18, 2005 meeting were reviewed. Darrell noted an error that his name appeared as timekeeper although he was not present at the meeting

Motion: To accept the minutes of the January 18, 2005 meeting as amended to delete Darrell Gilman's name as timekeeper. (Coleman; LeBrun - motion carries).

3. Old Business

1. Paramedic Exam

Committee members discussed concerns about the direction that NREMT was taking towards computer adaptive testing and the cost increases that the change may entail. Also expressed were concerns about NREMT's possible change to task oriented test development vs. objectives based testing. After continued discussion, it was evident that members wished to explore the possibility of a Maine based testing system utilizing web-based technology and currently available computer labs (e.g. adult ed, community colleges, regional offices) to provide an economical alternative to commercial testing sites.

Following a break, the Committee held a Greenfield/brainstorming session to come up with ideas about the future of EMS testing in Maine.

Exam:

- Who writes items?
- Who writes the blueprint?
- Blueprint is based on what?
- Mechanism for validating exam

State Needs:

- Make Appointment
- Schedule for tests available online
- Retest problem

- People without computers – entered by MEMS/Regions/ Mail –ins

Technology

- Reciprocity
- PW
- Limited Instructions
- Allotted Time – Shutdown
- Auto Score of Exams
- Immediate Feedback – Ability to issue temp license immediately
- Multiple Test Locations – Hospitals Technical Colleges
- Asynchronous – each individual candidate has allotted time, even if students start at different times
- Immediate Feedback to Students
- Statistical Analysis – Instructor/Classes, Item Category Analysis
- Do we publish all exam questions (e.g. Federal Aviation administration Exams)
- Include Subsection scoring – student must pass overall as well as in each subsection
- Include multimedia and video in exams – (may be limited by limited Internet access – i.e., slow connection).
- Ability for candidate to adjust font size of exam
- Exam must be proctored
- Allow data storage for interrupted tests so candidate can finish later – given special circumstances – fee could include limited number of retests if interruption occurs
- Status box on candidate screen – time remaining, questions completed – average time to complete (caveat to not make screen too busy of allow too much info to distract candidate.
- Ability for Student to go back to earlier questions (How do we mark the questions to go back to – electronic vs. pencil and paper vs. prompt at end of exam, i.e., “ You haven’t answered question 23, do you wish to answer it before ending the exam?”
- Ability to change answers
- Web registration – pre-approved for testing – pay by credit card, course verification
- How do we issue the key to allow the student to test?
 - Issued upon registration
 - Supplied by Proctor
 - Other?
- Program allows download of data into statistical program
- Ability to export to other state licensing agencies

Assessment

- Assessment
 - Matches Maine Curriculum
 - Objectives based
- Standardized vs. Computer Adaptive Testing

Consensus was to continue this discussion at next month’s meeting

2. Student Handbook – Status –

Drexell reported that Maine EMS staff person Dawn Kinney is working on the handbook.

3. EMT-B Practical – Data Collection Format

The Committee reviewed the compilation of the spinal stations and was presented with the patient assessment skill sheets developed by Darrell Gilman for the next round of reviews.

4. Exam Considerations for Proposed Airway Module

Drexell white reported that the training for the new airway module will be held for instructors on March 16, 2005 and that no evaluation piece would be required of the Exam Committee.

5. New Business - None

4. Next Meeting

A. Set Agenda - Next agenda to include:

- 1. Paramedic Exam**
- 2. Student Handbook - status**
- 3. EMT-B Practical Skill Station Data**

B. Set Date and Time

The next meeting is scheduled for April 19, 2005 at Maine EMS, 45 Commerce Drive, Suite 1 in Augusta.

6. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 12:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Drexell White